

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 OMB-01 AID-05 /098 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4553

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS LUSAKA 3212

GENEVA FOR WISNER

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS/PA

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, ZA, GW

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 1

REF: (A) LUSAKA 3197 (NOTAL), (B) LUSAKA 3186 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE. MEETING WITH VISITING
GERMAN JOURNALISTS URGED WESTERN COUNTRIES AND WEST GERMANY
IN PARTICULAR TO MINIMIZE ECONOMIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

TIMES OF ZAMBIA TOOK UP ONCE AGAIN ANC/MUZOREWA CHARGES THAT
ZAMBIA, UK, AND LONRHO HAVE CONSPIRED TO INSTALL NKOMO AS HEAD
OF AN INTERIM RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. WIRE STORIES PROVIDED
COVERAGE ON NATIONALISTS' DEMANDS FOR A BRITISH RESIDENT

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COMMISSIONER IN SALISBURY, RHODESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER BYL'S

ATTACK ON MUGABE, AND BOTSWANA PRESIDENT KHAMA'S STATEMENT THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD SOON FULLY ARM ITS SECURITY FORCES TO REPEL REBEL RHODESIAN ATTACKS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT A MEETING WITH VISITING WEST GERMAN JOURNALISTS NOVEMBER 30 FONMIN MWALE CALLED ON WEST GERMANY AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES TO MINIMIZE THEIR ECONOMIC CONTACTS WITH AND TOP STOP SELLING ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA. MWALE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. AS EXPLOSIVE AND SAID THAT SALE OF ARMS COULD MEAN A PERPETUATION OF THE POLICY OF APARTHEID. NOTING THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 6,000 GERMAN NATIONALS IN NAMIBIA, MWALE CALLED ON WEST GERMANY TO STOP ITS PARTICIPATION IN SOUTH AFRICAN PROJECTS. ON ANOTHER TOPIC, IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION, MWALE SAID THE DELAY IN OPENING THE BENGUELA RAILROAD WAS NOT A SIGN OF POOR RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAMBIA. THE DELAY WAS CAUSED BY DAMAGE TO THE LINE WHICH HAD NOT BEEN REPAIRED.

2. THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA FRONT-PAGE AN ACCOUNT OF REMARKS FONMIN MWALE MADE AT THE NOVEMBER 29 YUGOSLAV NATIONAL DAY IN LUSAKA. MWALE ONCE AGAIN DENOUNCED THE ANC/MUZOREWA CHARGE THAT THE U.K., ZAMBIA, AND LONRHO HAD PICKED JOSHUA NKOMO TO HEAD AN INTERIM RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT AS "IRRESPONSIBLE, DISGUSTING AND UNFORTUNATE." TIMES DEC 1 EDITORIAL ON THE ANC/MUZOREWA CHARGES PROCLAIMS THAT ZAMBIA'S ONLY COMMITMENT IS TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA WITH NO SPECIAL BRIEF FOR ANY PARTICULAR CANDIDATE. "IN THIS RESOLVE WE, ALONG WITH OTHERS, ARE WORKING FOR RHODESIANS AND OURSELVES ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN.....WE ARE MERELY FULFILLING OUR INESCAPABLE OBLIGATION TO OPPRESSED MANKIND AT OUR DOORSTEPP." EDITORIAL GOES ON TO CHALLENGE ACCUSERS TO PRODUCE THEIR "IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE" THAT ZAMBIA HAS PLOTTED WITH UK AND LONRHO TO FAVOR NKOMO. THE PAPER WILL PRINT SUCH EVIDENCE IN FULL.

4. WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS REPORT THAT NKOMO AND MUGABE HAVE CALLED FOR A BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER IN RHODESIA AND PUT FORWARD A PROPOSAL FOR A SINGLE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WITH FULL LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POWERS. NOTE IS TAKEN OF RHODESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER BYL'S ATTACK ON ROBERT MUGABE AS A "BLOODTHIRSTY MARXIST PUPPERT" FOR HAVING CALLED FOR THE TRIAL OF RHODESIAN WHITE LEADERS IN A BLACK-RULED RHODESIA. AN ACCOUNT FROM GABORONE UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTS BOTSWANA PRESIDENT KHAMA'S DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE LACK OF ACHIEVEMENT IN GENEVA, ALSO NOTED IS HIS UNDERTAKING TO STRENGTHEN BOTSWANA'S PARAMILITARY FORCES SO THEY CAN PUT UP MORE THAN TOKEN RESISTANCE TO REBEL RHODESIAN THREATS. LOW

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LUSAKA03212
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760445-0250
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761283/aaaacuhz.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LUSAKA 3197, 76 LUSAKA 3186
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAMBIAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 1
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, RH, ZA, GE, XJ, (MWALE, SITEKE)
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006